

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 6
Columbia River Compact
May 11, 2011

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	<i>Non-Indian commercial fisheries</i>
--	---

Stock status and management guidelines for 2011 winter/spring fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2 (February 8, 2011).

- Bonneville Dam counts through May 10 total 125,600 adult upriver spring Chinook.
- TAC officially updated the run on May 9 to the preseason forecast of 198,400 adult upriver spring Chinook at the Columbia River mouth. TAC met again on May 11 (today) and upgraded that estimate to 210,000.
- Based on the *U.S. v Oregon* agreement, non-Indian fisheries are limited to a total of 19,110 upriver spring Chinook (kept plus release mortalities) and an ESA impact rate of 1.9%. About half of the non-Indian allocation remains available at this time.

2011 Non-Indian Upriver Catch Balance Summary

Fishery	Upriver Mortalities
Mainstem commercial	1,728
SAFE	219
Lower river recreational	6,005
Bonneville to Or/Wa border recreational	2,403
Upper river recreational	1,200
<hr/>	
Non-Indian Total	11,555

- Based on a run size of 210,000 the commercial fishery allocation is 3,600 upriver fish (kept + release mortalities). Using large mesh gear the allowable catch is 1,750 due to ESA impact limitations.
- Test fishing was conducted on May 9. A total of 15 drifts were made in Zones 2-3. Chinook (adult) catch rate was 2.4 fish/drift. Chinook stock composition was estimated at 57% upriver fish and the mark rate was 64%. Steelhead handle totaled 11 fish (45% mark rate) and the catch rate was 0.7 steelhead/drift. Shad handle averaged 39 fish/ drift. In addition, a total of 83 jack Chinook were caught.
- Oregon Select Area fisheries are open 7 PM Thursday-7 AM Friday except Youngs Bay which is currently open through noon Friday. Deep River is open 7 PM Wednesday (tonight) through 7 AM Thursday.

Joint Staff Recommendation- Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery

Season:	3:00 PM Thursday May 12, 2011 to 5:00 AM Friday May 13, 2011	(14 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-4, upstream to Kelley Point	
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B	
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, sockeye, shad, and white sturgeon. A maximum of 5 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. Limit applies to mainstem only. Select Areas remain open under a two white sturgeon weekly retention limit.	
Gear:	<p>Drift nets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Monofilament web is allowed.</p> <p>Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.</p> <p>Standard regulations typically in place for spring Chinook commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, lighted buoys, tangle-net certification, etc.</p> <p>Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. There are no restrictions on the use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically. There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net and is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline.</p> <p>Soak times, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the gill net web is deployed into the water until the gill net web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.</p> <p>Red corks are required at 25 fathom intervals, and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.</p> <p>Lighted Buoys: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required</p> <p>Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. Each chamber of the recovery box(es) must include an operating water pumping system capable of delivering a minimum flow of 16 gallons per minute, not to exceed 20 gallons per minute of freshwater per chamber. Each chamber of the recovery box must meet the following dimensions as measured from within the box; the inside length measurement must be at or within 39 ½ inches to 48 inches, the inside width measurements must be at or within 8 to 10 inches, and the inside height measurement must be at or within 14 to 16 inches.</p> <p>Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water inlet hole between ¾ inch and 1 inch in diameter, centered horizontally across the door or end wall of the chamber and 1¾ inches from the floor of the chamber. Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water outlet hole that is at least 1½ inches in diameter located on either the same or opposite end as the inlet. The center of the outlet hole must be located a minimum of 12 inches above the floor of the box or chamber. The fisher must demonstrate to WDFW and ODFW employees, fish and wildlife enforcement officers, or other peace officers, upon request, that the pumping system is delivering the proper volume of fresh river water into each chamber.</p> <p>All non-legal sturgeon, non-adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, and steelhead must be released immediately to the river with care and with the least possible injury to the fish, or placed into an operating recovery box.</p> <p>Any fish that is bleeding or lethargic must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released.</p>	

All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.

Additional Rules: **Observer program:** As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with department observers or observers collecting data for the department, when notified by the observer of his or her intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery.

Live Capture workshop: Only licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.

24-hour **quick reporting** required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.

- Expected catch is less than 2,500 kept fish based on an expected 150 deliveries. Upriver catch (kept plus release mortality) is expected to be approximately 1,750 fish.
- Based on test fishing results, staff is recommending the use of large mesh gear to reduce steelhead handle. A large mesh fishery structure was used in May 2006 and no steelhead were observed during onboard monitoring. Additional concern over the effect of potentially high shad catches on drift times also contributed to the recommendation.
- If the recommendation is adopted as proposed, the total non-Indian catch (kept plus released mortalities) of upriver fish would be 13,305, or 70% of the 19,110 fish limit at the in-season run size of 210,000.
- The proposed mainstem commercial fishery conflicts (gear and time and allowable sales) with fisheries previously adopted for some Select Areas. Due to the current schedule of Deep River SAFE fisheries, no modifications are necessary for this fishery.

Joint Staff Recommendation- Non-Indian Select Area Commercial Fisheries

The Joint Staff recommends that the following modifications to previously adopted Select Area fisheries:

Tongue Point/South Channel and Blind/Knapka Slough:

Reschedule fisheries scheduled for Thursday night to open tonight. The modified season would be: 7 PM Wednesday May 11 to 7 AM Thursday May 12 in Tongue Point/South Channel and Blind/Knapka Sloughs. The fishery scheduled for Thursday night in these areas would be rescinded.

Effective Wednesday May 11 through the remainder of the season, fishers in the Tongue Point/South Channel fishery are no longer required to have their catches sampled at the sampling station near Tongue Point. Fishers are instead required to call 503-428-0518 and leave a message including name, amount of catch, and location and time the fish will be sold.

Youngs Bay

Retention of non-adipose fin-clipped Chinook is prohibited from 3 PM Thursday May 12, 2011 through midnight Sunday May 15, 2011.

Future Meetings

- A Joint State hearing will be held via teleconference at 1 PM, Friday May 13 to review Columbia River recreational fisheries.